LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously presented) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

at a computer having a plurality of sets of conditional rules defined in a memory therein, receiving a trader-selected set of conditional rules, wherein the selected set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in an order-handling program that is executable by the computer, and wherein execution of the order-handling program includes automatically routing an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules,

at the computer, receiving an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and

at the computer, executing the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

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13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

14.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

15-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

21-30. (Canceled)

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31.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the order is routed to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

32.   (Previously presented) A system for facilitating trading, comprising:

a computer having a plurality of sets of conditional rules defined in a memory therein, each set of conditional rules defining a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters,

wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in an order-handling program that is executable by the computer, said order-handling program being configured to automatically route an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the conditional rules implemented in the order-handling program,

wherein the computer has a selection component configured to receive a selection of one of the sets of conditional rules, and

wherein the computer further has an order component and an execution component, the order component being operable to receive an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and the execution component being operable to execute the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

33.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

34.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with one or more

relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

35.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

36.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

37.   (Canceled)

38.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

39.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

40.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

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41.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the order-handling program, when executed, is configured to route the order to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

42.   (Previously presented) A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for facilitating trading, wherein the instructions, if executed, cause a computer to:

receive a trader-selected set of conditional rules, wherein the selected set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters, wherein the selected set of conditional rules is implemented in an order-handling program that is executable by the computer, and wherein the order-handling program is configured to automatically route an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the conditional rules implemented in the order-handling program;

receive an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules; and

execute the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

43.   (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

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44. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

45. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

46. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

49. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

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50.   (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

51.   (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

52.   (Previously presented) A system for facilitating trading, comprising:

computer means for receiving a trader-selection of a set of conditional rules from a plurality of sets of conditional rules defined in a memory, wherein the selected set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in an order-handling program that is executable by the computer means, and wherein execution of the order-handling program includes automatically routing an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules,

computer means for receiving an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and

computer means for executing the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

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